

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for snow riding by a rider wearing boots, comprising:

(A) an elongate snowboard having a longitudinal board axis, an upper surface adapted to support the rider and a lower surface opposite the upper surface, said snowboard including,

(1) a first set of attachment bores formed in the upper surface,
and

(2) a second set of attachment bores formed in the upper surface at a location longitudinally spaced from the first set of attachment bores;

(B) a first binding adapted to receive a first boot of the rider,

(1) said first binding being fixedly attached to the upper surface of said snowboard by means of first fasteners that are received by at least some of said attachment bores in said first set;

(C) a second binding adapted to receive a second boot of the rider wherein said second boot includes a longitudinal boot axis; and

(D) a mount disposed on the support surface in spaced relation to said first binding, said mount including

(1) a base member formed as a plate having a plurality of positioning holes extending therethrough and arranged in an array,

(a) said base member fixedly attached to the upper surface of said snowboard by means of second fasteners received

by at least some of the positioning holes and that are received in at least some of said attachment bores in said second set,

(2) a coupling member associated with said base member,

(a) said coupling member having a plurality of openings adapted to receive third fasteners,

(b) said second binding being attached to said coupling member by means of said third fasteners that are received in at least some of the openings in said coupling member,

(c) said coupling member being movably disposed relative to said base member such that the rider may relatively orient the second boot when secured in said second boot binding ~~said coupling and said base member between~~

(i) a primary ~~position~~ orientation wherein the longitudinal boot axis is transverse to the longitudinal board axis ~~when the second boot is secured in said second boot binding~~, and

(ii) a secondary ~~position~~ orientation that is different from said primary orientation; and ~~wherein the longitudinal boot axis is generally parallel to the longitudinal board axis when the second boot is secured in said second boot binding~~; and

(3) a latch associated with said base member and said coupling member, said latch being movable between

(a) a locked state to lock said coupling member and ~~said base member~~ against relative movement with respect to said base member when said coupling member is in the primary orientation ~~primary position~~, and

(b) an unlocked state thereby to permit the rider to ~~move~~ freely rotate said coupling member relative to said base member about a majority of an arc of a circle to a selected secondary orientation. ~~between the primary boot position and the secondary position.~~

2. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said coupling member, said base member, and said latch are formed of a material chosen from metal, plastic, and a combination of metal and plastic.

3. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the array of positioning holes permits said base member to be mounted in at least two different orientations relative to the longitudinal axis of said snowboard.

4. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the array of positioning holes permits said base member to be mounted in at least three different orientations relative to the longitudinal axis of said snowboard.

5. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein

(A) said coupling member is a disc-shaped plate, and

(B) said base member is a plate having a circular cavity formed therein that is sized and adapted to receive said coupling member in a nested state.

6. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 5 wherein said coupling member and said base member are coplanar flat plates when in the nested state.

7. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said base member has a first latch bore and said coupling member has a second latch bore, said first and second latch bores positioned to coaxially align with one another when said base member and said coupling member are in the primary orientation, position, said latch including a movable rod disposed in the first latch bore and operative to extend into the second latch bore when in the locked state.

8. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 7 wherein said rod is biased toward the locked state.

9. (Original) An assembly adapted to secure to a support surface of a snowboard that is adapted to support a rider wearing a boot, comprising:

(A) a base member adapted to affix to the support surface of the snowboard thereby to define a mounted state,

(1) said base member having a circular opening formed therein and including a radially inwardly projecting flange;

(B) a disc-shaped coupling member rotatably disposed in the circular opening in said base member to define a nested state,

(1) said coupling member operative to engage said flange and having

(2) a bottom surface adapted to confront the upper surface of the snowboard whereby a perimeter margin of said coupling member is secured between said flange and the snowboard when in the nested and mounted states, and

(C) A latch associated with said base member and said coupling member, said latch being

(1) operative in a locked state to lock said coupling member against rotation relative to said base member in a first position, and

(2) movable to an unlocked state to permit the uninhibited rotation of said coupling member relative to said base member so as to allow the rider to move said coupling member into a second position; and

(GD) a binding adapted to be mounted to said coupling member and operative to receive a boot of the rider.

10. (Original) An assembly according to claim 9 wherein said base member is formed as a flat plate, said coupling member and said base member each having top and bottom surfaces with the top surfaces being coplanar with one another and the bottom surfaces being coplanar with one another when in the nested state.

11. (Original) An assembly according to claim 9 wherein the perimeter margin of said coupling member is formed as an outwardly projecting lip that provides a shoulder that engages said flange when in the nested state.

12. (Original) An assembly according to claim 9 wherein said coupling member and said base member are formed of a material chosen from metal, plastic, and a combination of metal and plastic.

13. Cancelled.

14. (Currently Amended) An assembly according to claim ~~13~~9 wherein said base member has a first latch bore and said coupling member has a second latch bore, the first and second latch bores positioned to co-axially align with one another when said base member and said coupling member are in the first position, said latch including a movable rod disposed in the first latch bore and operative to extend into the second latch bore when in the locked state.

Al 15. (Original) An assembly according to claim 14 wherein the first latch bore has a first portion of a first diameter and first length located adjacent to said coupling member and a second portion of a second diameter that is less than the first diameter and a second length, said rod including an enlarged head portion disposed in the first portion and a shaft portion disposed in the second portion, the second latch bore sized and adapted to receive at least part of said head portion when in the locked state with at least some of said shaft portion projecting outwardly of the second portion of the first latch bore, such that it may be grasped by the rider's hand.

16. (Original) An assembly according to claim 15 including a spring element disposed in the first portion of said first latch bore and operative to bias said head toward the locked state.

17. (Currently Amended) An assembly according to claim 9 wherein ~~the openings in said coupling member~~ includes a plurality of threaded openings and wherein are threaded, said binding ~~including~~ includes threaded fasteners adapted to engage the threaded openings.

18. (Original) An assembly according to claim 9 wherein said base member has a plurality of positioning holes arranged in an array, there being a first pair of holes oriented along a first line and spaced a selected distance apart from one another, a second pair of holes oriented along a second line and spaced the selected distance apart from one another and a third pair of holes oriented along a third line different from the second line and spaced the selected distance apart from one another, each of said second and third lines being oriented at an angle with respect to the first line whereby the first and second pairs of holes are located at the corners of a first rectangle and whereby the first and third pairs of holes are located at the corners of a second rectangle.

19. (Currently Amended) A mount adapted to secure to a support surface of a snowboard that is adapted to support a rider wearing a boot and mount a binding for said boot, comprising:

(A) a base member adapted to affix to the support surface of the snowboard thereby to define a mounted state,

(1) said base member having a circular opening formed therein and including a radially inwardly projecting flange; and

(B) a disc-shaped coupling member rotatably disposed in the circular opening in said base member to define a nested state,

(1) said coupling member including an outwardly projecting lip operative to engage said flange and having

(2) a bottom surface adapted to confront the upper surface of the snowboard whereby said lip is located between said flange and the snowboard in the nested and mounted states,

(3) said coupling member having a plurality of openings adapted to receive fasteners for securing the binding thereto; and

(C) a latch associated with said base member and said coupling member, said latch being

(1) operative in a locked state to lock said coupling member and said base member against relative rotation when said coupling member is in a primary position, and

(2) movable to an unlocked state thereby to permit relative rotation between said coupling member and said base member to a selected secondary position.

20. (Original) A mount according to claim 19 wherein said coupling member and said base member are formed of a material chosen from metal, plastic, and a combination of metal and plastic.

21. Cancelled.

22. (Currently Amended) A mount according to claim ~~21~~19 wherein said base member has a first latch bore and said coupling member has a second latch bore, the first and second latch bores positioned to coaxially align with one another when said base member and said coupling member are in the primary position, said latch including a movable rod disposed in the first latch bore and operative to extend into the second latch bore when in the locked state.

23. (Original) A mount according to claim 22 wherein the first latch bore has a first portion of a first diameter and first length located adjacent to said coupling member and a second portion of a second diameter that is less than the first diameter and a second length, said rod including an enlarged head portion disposed in the first portion and a shaft portion disposed in the second portion, the second latch bore sized and adapted to receive at least part of said head portion when in the locked state with at least some of said shaft portion projecting outwardly of the second portion of the first latch bore such that it may be grasped by the rider's hand.

24. (Original) A mount according to claim 23 including a spring element disposed in the first portion of said first latch bore and operative to bias said head toward the locked state.

25. (Original) A mount according to claim 19 wherein the openings in said coupling member are threaded.

26. (Original) A mount according to claim 19 wherein said base member has a plurality of positioning holes arranged in an array, there being a first pair of holes oriented along a first line and spaced a selected distance apart from one another, a second pair of holes oriented along a second line and spaced the selected distance apart from one another and a third pair of holes oriented along a third line different from the second line and spaced the selected distance apart from one another, each of said second and third lines being oriented at an angle with respect to the first line whereby the first and second pairs of holes are located at the corners of a first rectangle and whereby the first and third pairs of holes are located at the corners of a second rectangle.

27. (Original) In a snow riding system for a rider wearing boots including an elongate snowboard having a longitudinal board axis, an upper surface adapted to support the rider and a lower surface opposite the upper surface to glide on a snow covered area wherein said snowboard includes a first set of attachment bores formed in the upper surface, a second set of attachment bores formed in the upper surface at a location longitudinally spaced from the first set of attachment bores, a first binding adapted to receive a first boot of the rider and being fixedly attached to the upper surface of said snowboard by means of first fasteners that are received in at least some of said attachment bores in said first set, a second binding adapted to receive a second boot of the rider wherein said second boot includes a longitudinal boot axis, the improvement comprising a mount adapted to secure said second binding to said snowboard, said mount including

(A) a base member adapted to affix to the support surface of the snowboard by means of second fasteners that are received in at least some of said attachment bores in said second set thereby to define a mounted state,

(1) said base member having a circular opening formed therein and including a radially inwardly projecting flange;

(B) a disc-shaped coupling member rotatably disposed in the circular opening in said base member to define a nested state,

(1) said coupling member including an outwardly projecting lip operative to engage said flange and having

(2) a bottom surface adapted to confront the upper surface of the snowboard whereby said lip is secured between said flange and the snowboard in the coupled state,

(3) said coupling member having a plurality of openings adapted to receive fasteners adapted to secure the second binding thereto; and

(C) a latch associated with said base member and said coupling member, said latch being movable between

(1) a locked state to lock said coupling member and said base member against relative rotation when said coupling is in a primary position, and

(2) an unlocked state thereby to permit relative rotation between said coupling member and said base member.

28. (Currently Amended) A method of supporting a binding of a boot on a support surface of a snowboard, comprising the steps of:

(A) providing a coupling member having a top surface that is securable to the binding and a bottom surface opposite the top surface;

(B) placing said coupling member so that the bottom surface confronts the support surface of the snowboard;

(C) constraining said coupling member ~~for~~from rotation about a rotational axis that is perpendicular to the support surface while maintaining the bottom surface in confronting relationship to the support surface; and

(D) securing the binding to the coupling member.

29. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 28 including the steps of selectively locking the coupling member in a first rotational position and permitting uninhibited rotation between the first rotational position and a selected second rotational position.

30. (New) An assembly adapted to secure to a support surface of a snowboard that is adapted to support a rider wearing a boot, comprising:

(A) a base member adapted to affix to the support surface of the snowboard thereby to define a mounted state,

al (1) said base member having a circular opening and a first latch bore formed therein and including a radially inwardly projecting flange;

(B) a disc-shaped coupling member rotatably disposed in the circular opening in said base member to define a nested state,

(1) said coupling member operative to engage said flange and having

(a) a second latch bore and

(b) a bottom surface adapted to confront the upper surface of the snowboard whereby a perimeter margin of said coupling member is secured between said flange and the snowboard when in the nested and mounted states;

(C) a latch associated with said base member and said coupling member and including a movable rod disposed in the first latch bore, said latch being

(1) operative in a locked state to lock said coupling member and said base member against relative rotation when said coupling member is in a primary position, the first and second latch bores positioned to co-axially align with one another when said base member and said coupling member are in the primary position with said movable rod operative to extend into the second latch bore when in the locked state, and

(2) movable to an unlocked state thereby to permit relative rotation between said coupling member and said base member to a secondary position, and wherein

(a) the first latch bore has a first portion of a first diameter and first length located adjacent to said coupling member and a second portion of a second diameter that is less than the first diameter and a second length, said rod including an enlarged head portion disposed in the first portion and a shaft portion disposed in the second portion, the second latch bore sized and adapted to receive at least part of said head portion when in the locked state with at least some of said shaft portion projecting outwardly of the second portion of the first latch bore such that it may be grasped by the rider's hand; and

(D) a binding adapted to be mounted to said coupling member and operative to receive a boot of the rider.

31. (New) An assembly according to claim 30 including a spring element disposed in the first portion of said first latch bore and operative to bias said head toward the locked state.

32. (New) A mount adapted to secure to a support surface of a snowboard that is adapted to support a rider wearing a boot and mount a binding for said boot, comprising:

(A) a base member adapted to affix to the support surface of the snowboard thereby to define a mounted state,

(1) said base member having a circular opening and a first latch bore formed therein and including a radially inwardly projecting flange;

(B) a disc-shaped coupling member rotatably disposed in the circular opening in said base member to define a nested state,

(1) said coupling member including an outwardly projecting lip operative to engage said flange and having

(a) a second latch bore,

(b) a bottom surface adapted to confront the upper surface of the snowboard whereby said lip is located between said flange and the snowboard in the nested and mounted states, and

(c) a plurality of openings adapted to receive fasteners for securing the binding thereto;

(C) a latch associated with said base member and said coupling member and including a movable rod disposed in the first latch bore, said latch being

(1) operative in a locked state to lock said coupling member and said base member against relative rotation when said coupling member is in a primary position, the first and second latch bores positioned to coaxially align with one another when said base member and said coupling member are in the primary position with said movable rod operative to extend into the second latch bore when in the locked state,

(2) movable to an unlocked state thereby to permit relative rotation between said coupling member and said base member and wherein

al (a) the first latch bore has a first portion of a first diameter and first length located adjacent to said coupling member and a second portion of a second diameter that is less than the first diameter and a second length, said rod including an enlarged head portion disposed in the first portion and a shaft portion disposed in the second portion, the second latch bore sized and adapted to receive at least part of said head portion when in the locked state with at least some of said shaft portion projecting outwardly of the second portion of the first latch bore such that it may be grasped by the rider's hand.

33. (New) A mount according to claim 32 including a spring element disposed in the first portion of said first latch bore and operative to bias said head toward the locked state.

34. (New) An assembly adapted to secure to a support surface of a snowboard that is adapted to support a rider wearing a boot, comprising:

(A) a base member adapted to affix to the support surface of the snowboard thereby to define a mounted state,

(1) said base member having a circular opening and a first latch bore formed therein and including a radially inwardly projecting flange;

(B) a disc-shaped coupling member rotatably disposed in the circular opening in said base member to define a nested state,

(1) said coupling member operative to engage said flange and having a second latch bore and

(C) a latch associated with said base member and said coupling member that is movable between

(1) a locked state to lock said coupling member in a preset riding position and restrict movement relative to said base member, and

(2) an unlocked state thereby to permit movement of the coupling member to a selected walking position wherein said latch includes

(a) a movable rod disposed in the first latch bore and operative to extend into the second latch bore when in the locked state, said latch including

(i) a shaft portion that is geometrically congruent with the first latch bore, and

(ii) a head portion that is geometrically congruent with the second latch bore.

35. (New) A mount adapted to secure to a support surface of a snowboard that is adapted to support a rider wearing a boot and mount a binding for said boot, comprising:

(A) a base member formed as a plate and having a first latch bore; and

(B) a coupling member associated with said base member having a second latch bore and adapted to receive a boot binding, said coupling member being movably disposed relative to said base member thereby to permit the rider to orient the boot when secured in the binding between

(1) a preset riding position, and

(2) a selected walking position; and

(C) a latch associated with said base member and said coupling member, said latch being movable between

(1) a locked state to lock said coupling member against relative movement when said coupling is in the preset riding position, and

(2) an unlocked state thereby to permit the rider to move said coupling member into the selected walking position said latch including

(a) a shaft portion that is geometrically congruent with the first latch bore, and

(b) a head portion that is geometrically congruent with the second latch bore.